2-31-99 B2/A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Rickey et al.

Appl. No. To be assigned (Continuation of 09/071,865)

Filed: Herewith

For:

Preparation of Biodegradable, Biocompatible Microparticles Containing A Biologically Active

Agent

Art Unit: To be assigned

Examiner: To be assigned

Atty. Docket: 00166.0063.US04

Preliminary Amendment

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following Preliminary Amendment in the above-captioned application prior to the examination thereof.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 08-3038.